

SOCIAL SECURITY LOCKBOX

(Mr. VITTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VITTER. Mr. Speaker, on May 26 of this year, 3 days before my election, this body passed a Social Security lockbox bill authored by my distinguished colleague the gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER). It was by an overwhelming vote of 416-12.

We are here today, and we will be here every day to demand that the Senate act on this measure. A lot has happened since passage on May 26. Four months, a total of 131 days, have gone by. The American League won the All Star game. The NHL and the NFL began play. The President got a home loan. And the other body voted six times to block Social Security lockbox legislation.

But one thing has not changed. The American people are rightly demanding that we protect Social Security through institutional safeguards like the lockbox. Simply put, the other body is holding the lockbox bill hostage. One hundred thirty-one days is long enough.

REPUBLICAN BROKEN PROMISES

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, at the beginning of this Congress, the new Republican leadership made America a few promises. They said that they would finish their work on time, that they would not break the balanced budget spending limits, and that they would not spend money from the Social Security trust fund.

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Months later, all we can say about these three promises is broken, broken, and broken. The Republicans have not finished their work on time. Last week we had to pass an emergency spending measure to prevent the government shutdown. The Republicans are breaking the spending caps, proposing budget-busting tax cuts for the wealthiest of Americans. And their plan to bring spending back in line? Delay the small tax credit given to low-income working families, a plan so callous even GOP Presidential candidate George Bush denounced it saying, "Republicans should not balance their budget on the backs of the poor."

Finally, Republicans promised not to take money from Social Security, but now the Congressional Budget Office says that the Republicans have already taken \$16 billion out of the Social Security Trust Fund this year. Another promise broken. They have broken the lock-box and they have taken the money out and spent the Social Security Trust Fund. Promises made, prom-

ises broken. That is the legacy of this Congress.

MIAMI RIVER CLEANUP

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, now that the President has signed into law the first Federal appropriations to clean up the Miami River, that was in the fiscal year 2000 energy water appropriation bill. The next step will be up to the governments at the State and local levels as well as the broad coalition of community groups represented by the Miami River Commission and the Miami River Marine Group.

The Miami-Dade County manager has reiterated our county's support for this key environmental project. This is the beginning of a 4-year phased dredging project proposed by the Miami River Commission with the assistance of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

This \$5 million Federal initial appropriation will begin maintenance dredging of the river which will cost \$64 million from Federal, State, and local sources. The Miami River project shows what can be accomplished when governments at all levels join with grass-roots activists to achieve a common goal. The cleanup will ensure the continued growth of the Miami River as one of our Nation's critical shipping links to the Caribbean and Latin America.

We congratulate the Miami-Dade County manager. Let us do our job at the local level now.

MANAGED CARE REFORM

(Mr. GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, just when Congress appears ready for managed care reform with the Norwood-Dingell bill, there is an effort to propose gimmicks and ways to poison the bill with harmful provisions that will wind up doing nothing for patients.

For months, the Republican leadership has complained that the Patients' Bill of Rights would increase cost and open employers to unfair lawsuits, both of which would supposedly force employers to drop coverage. That is just not true.

As a Northeastern Member of Congress said a couple of weeks ago, even Texas is a leader and California just passed a bill recently and the governor signed it, passed a strong Patients' Bill of Rights. My home State of Texas has passed many of the patient protections. They are already in place, including external appeals, accountability, and there has been no premium increase or exodus by employers to drop coverage.

What Texas residents do have is the health care protections they need. Provisions included in this Patients' Bill of Rights should be extended to every American including eliminating "gag clauses," open access to specialists, a timely appeals process, coverage for immediate emergency care, and holding the medical decision-maker accountable.

Mr. Speaker, I hope and pray we are not headed for more delays and maneuverings and will pass a strong bill for our constituents.

EVERYONE WANTS TO GO TO HEAVEN, BUT NOBODY WANTS TO DIE

(Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, the late heavyweight champion of the world, Joe Louis, once said, "Everyone wants to go to heaven but nobody wants to die."

Mr. Speaker, the wisdom of that statement will be shown to be true this week and next. Everybody in this House says that they want to protect Social Security. Everybody. But how many will support the spending cuts we need to get there?

Every time the majority offers budget cuts to get there, the other side votes "no," or offers tax increases, or screams bloody murder.

We must cut spending to preserve Social Security. We must pass the Social Security lock-box. But as Joe Louis said: "Everybody wants to go to heaven, but nobody wants to die."

TECHIES DAY

(Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of National Techies Day and the positive impact technology had on our lives.

Techies Day allows us to recognize and applaud today's technology professionals. In addition, it brings current techies and schoolchildren together in hopes of encouraging more of them to pursue careers in science or technology.

The United States leads the world in technology development, but we continue to lag behind in educating and training the workforce that is prepared to fill thousands of technical jobs. With more of our day-to-day activities being done electronically, it is important we ensure a competent workforce that is prepared to meet the growing needs of this industry. These needs will be met by educating our children and preparing them for the technology field. This is essential to America's long-term economic strength as we enter the 21st century.